

STATE WILL SET UP A PANEL TO STUDY POSTWAR OUTLOOK

Governor Says Growth Can
Be Maintained at High
Level After Vietnam
12-10-67

By RICHARD WITKIN

Governor Rockefeller announced last night that he intended to name a post-Vietnam study group to help the state prepare for the economic and social effects that an end of the fighting would produce.

Mr. Rockefeller said he believed "unequivocally" that the nation's economy could be kept "at a high level of growth without war."

The Governor added that while the curtailment of the war production and the return of troops, would cause dislocations, there would still be vast "pent-up demands to solve the problems of urban living."

He said he wanted the new study group to advise the state on both public and private steps "required to make this transition."

Why He's Acting Now

Mr. Rockefeller's press aide, Leslie Slote, said the Governor had long been thinking of the post-Vietnam problem and had been spurred to act now by questions raised at one of a series of "town meeting" he has been conducting on state issues.

Mr. Slote said the timing of the Governor's initiative did not indicate he had any inside information on progress toward ending the war.

The Governor made the announcement that he would name the study group in a speech prepared for the 69th annual dinner of the Pennsylvania Society at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The society's membership includes Pennsylvanians who have achieved positions of leadership in all walks of life.

Mr. Rockefeller reviewed a draft of his speech during a Friday evening speech in a rented executive jet that brought him here from the Republican Governors meeting in Palm Beach, Fla. He put the final touches on it yesterday morning in his office at 22 West 35th Street.

Would Reassure G.I.'s

One of the chief aims of the Governor is to reassure the man in service that they need not fear the economic situation that will confront them when they turn in their uniforms.

"It is of special importance," he said, "that our plans and programs be designed to meet the particular needs of the individual who, through no fault of his own, has had his education, his career or his business development plans seriously interrupted."

Mr. Rockefeller said the study group would be set up as a special committee of the State Planning Coordination Board. He said it would be made up of state officials and prominent members of the business, financial, labor, and educational communities.

The coordination board is a

Continued on Page 9, Column 1

STATE WILL STUDY POSTWAR ECONOMY

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

top-level agency responsible for providing integration of the major state agencies. It works out of the Governor's executive chamber in Albany.

Mr. Slote said the post-Vietnam group would probably be named within the next few weeks.

Mr. Rockefeller introduced the subject when he said:

"Someone asked me recently whether I thought the economy of this country could be maintained at a high level of growth without war. My answer to that question is unequivocally yes. It can if we plan government action intelligently and create the incentives for private capital to do the job."

"When the war in Vietnam is concluded," the Governor went on, "returning veterans and curtailment of military production will affect markets and employment conditions. But the pent-up production will affect markets and employment conditions. But the pent-up demands to solve the problems of urban living—of housing and home ownership, of transportation, of community development and community renewal are all around us."

Rejects Gloomy View

Mr. Rockefeller recalled that "some were predicting we would have eight million unemployed in this country after World War II, but no such thing occurred."

"This kind of attitude must be met head-on," the Governor said. "It is symptomatic of the attitude that consigned your state, Pennsylvania, our state, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and others to a role of stagnation and comparative decline just a few years ago."

"It was said then, and it is being said now in some quarters, that we were 'mature economies', passed over by the westward-ho march of the 'Frontier' and therefore doomed economically. . . .

"Pennsylvanians and New Yorkers refuse to accept this dictum—its defeatism, its unsound premise that economic maturity is economic senility. On the contrary, we are convinced and we have proven that the economic wisdom of adult experience as states is a springboard for growth."

KUCHEL